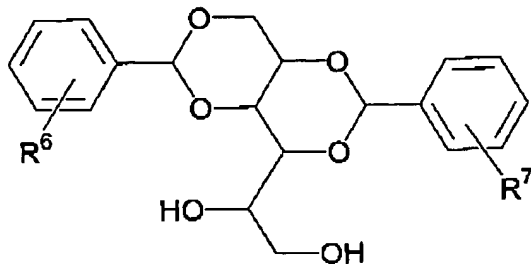


paragraphs. A marked-up copy of the original paragraphs, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

—Reference Compound



The dibenzylidene sorbitol derivative represented by the reference formula, wherein  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  are each an aliphatic hydrocarbon group having a carbon number of 1 to 29 or an aryl group, can be used but it requires a stabilizer to be chemically stable.--

Please replace the paragraph at page 36, line 27 - page 37, line 8, with the following paragraph. A marked-up copy of the original paragraph, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

—The same procedure as used in Example 1 was carried out except that the compound represented by the reference formula, where both  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  are methyl groups (Sample R), was used as the gelling agent and potassium sorbate was added as the stabilizer. The mixture gelled without adding any organic solvent. When the gel was left standing for 6 months at room temperature, neither leakage of  $ImBF_4$  nor discoloration of the gel was observed.--